REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, and 25-33 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McArthur, U.S. Patent No. 5,805,806 ("McArthur") in view of Osakabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,933,430 ("Osakabe"), and further in view of Terry et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,499,047 ("Terry"). Claims 25-26 and 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osakabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,933,430 ("Osakabe"), in view of Terry et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,499,047 ("Terry").

No claims have been amended, added, or cancelled in this response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

McArthur in view of Osakabe and further in view of Terry

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-12 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McArthur, U.S. Patent No. 5,805,806 ("McArthur") in view of Osakabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,933,430 ("Osakabe"), and further in view of Terry et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,499,047 ("Terry"). Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over McArthur in view of Osakabe and further in view of Terry.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references cannot be logically combined and further that even if such combination were made, the claims of the present invention would not be obvious.

McArthur discloses a method "to distribute and display locally generated video on any display device in a local area network (LAN)." (McArthur, col. 1, ll. 56-59). In the Office Action of March 14, 2003, the Examiner stated that:

> "McArthur does not specifically teaches the client interface adapter is a universal client interface adapter, and the second portion operating at a frequency greater than a signal cut-off frequency defined for conventional coaxial cable services and at least one carrier modulated digital signal having a signal operating frequency that occupied the second portion of the operating frequency spectrum of the coaxial cable, the carrier modulated digital signal transmitted in the coaxial cable coupled between the pair of universal client interface adapters." (Office Action, Page 3).

Osakabe discloses that "a bidirectional data transmission system...is provided with a CD player 1, a DAT recorder 2, an MD recorder 3 and a CD player 4 as digital audio equipments as shown in FIG. 1...Each of these digital audio equipments is provided with a digital audio interface." (Osakabe, col. 8, ll. 62-67). Osakabe also discloses that "the CD player 1 and the DAT recorder 2 are connected to an IEC958/IEEE-1394 converter...6 by means of signal lines and control buses of digital audio interfaces." (Osakabe, col. 8, ln. 67- col. 9, ln. 3, Fig. 2). "The converter 6 and the converter 7 have a function of converting the protocol of the digital audio interface and the protocol of IEEE-1394 to each other." (Osakabe, col. 9, ll. 17-20). Additionally, Osakabe discloses MIDI/IEEE-1394 converters (37-40) which perform "mutual conversion between the MIDI signal and the protocol of the IEEE-1394 serial bus." (Osakabe, col. 13, ll. 40-60, Fig. 14).

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine McArthur with Osakabe and Terry as proposed by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the proposed combination of McArthur with Terry would render McArthur

unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. MPEP 2143.01 states that "if a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." (MPEP 2143.01, citing *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)).

McArthur teaches that "cable television services generally occupy a range of frequencies from 50 to 800 MHz... In accordance with the present invention, the range of frequencies from 0 to 50 MHz is used for a local baseband (unmodulated) digital network." (McArthur, col. 4, ll. 16-23). McArthur also teaches that "low-pass filters... extract the baseband digital signals." (McArthur, col. 7, ll. 31-33). Additionally, McArthur teaches that "low-pass filter 122 allows only frequencies from 0 to 50 MHz to pass, thereby isolating the LAN transceiver 128 from cable television and local video signals." (McArthur, col. 8, ll. 38-41).

Terry teaches a "conventional cable television distribution network... which is supplemented with an additional bi-directional transmission capability." (Terry, col. 4, ll. 36-40). Terry also teaches that "each FTU 26 (fiber termination unit)...serves to supply to the coaxial cable...digital signals at frequencies above those of the analog television signals already carried by the cable." (Terry, col. 4, ll. 47-54). Additionally, Terry states that:

> "The digital video signals are carded downstream on the cable drops 20 to the customer premises in the form of a BPSK (binary phase shift keyed) signal providing a bit rate of 150 Mb/s in a frequency range from 750 to 950 MHz... Control signals and other data are preferably carried upstream via the cable drops 20 by a multiple access BPSK signal providing the same bit rate of 150 Mb/s in a frequency range from 950 to 1150 MHz." (Terry, col. 6, ll. 1-10).

The combination of McArthur's teaching that "low-pass filters extract the baseband digital signals", with Terry's teaching of "digital signals at frequencies above those of the analog television signals already carried by the cable," would render McArthur unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of using the "range of frequencies from 0 to 50 MHz...for a local baseband (unmodulated) digital network." Additionally, the low-pass filters taught by McArthur would filter out the high frequency digital signals taught by Terry. Therefore, Applicants submit that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of McArthur with those of Terry.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of McArthur in view of Osakabe and further in view of Terry does not disclose or suggest every element of claim 1.

Claim 1 recites in part:

> a plurality of universal client interface adapters, one universal client interface adapter in communication with at least one client and in communication with at least one other universal client interface adapter;
> at least one coaxial cable coupled between a pair of universal client interface adapters, the at least one coaxial cable having an operating frequency spectrum, the operating frequency spectrum having at least a first portion and a second portion, the second portion operating at a frequency greater than a signal cut-off frequency defined for conventional coaxial cable services; and
> at least one carrier modulated digital signal having a signal operating frequency that occupies the second portion of the operating frequency spectrum of the coaxial cable, the at least one carrier modulated digital signal transmitted in the coaxial cable coupled between the pair of universal client interface adapters.
> (Claim 1, emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of McArthur in view of Osakabe and further in view of Terry does not teach or suggest a "universal client

interface adapter" as recited in claim 1. The Examiner stated that "Osakabe et al teaches universal client interface adapters," citing converter 6 and 7, Figure 2 and Figure 14 of Osakabe. (Office Action, Page 3).

Applicants submit that Osakabe does not teach or suggest a "universal client interface adapter," as recited in claim 1. Instead, the IEC958/IEEE-1394 converter (6,7) disclosed by Osakabe only has a "function of converting the protocol of the digital audio interface and the protocol of IEEE-1394 to each other." (Osakabe, col. 9, ll. 17-20). Applicants submit that having a "universal client interface adapter," as recited in claim 1, means that the same adapter may be connected to various types of clients. The IEC958/IEEE-1394 converter taught by Osakabe is not a "universal client interface adapter," since the IEC958/IEEE-1394 converter (6,7) taught by Osakabe may only be connected to clients "provided with a digital audio interface." (Osakabe, col. 8, ll. 62-67). Furthermore, Osakabe also discloses a second type of converter (37-40), specifically a MIDI/IEEE-1394 converter (37-40). Therefore, Osakabe does not describe these converters (6,7 and 37-40) as being "universal client interface adapters", but rather quite specifically teaches away from a universal client interface adapter, by teaching that different types of converters are used for different devices.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over McArthur in view of Osakabe and further in view of Terry, for at least the reasons discussed above. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, and 27 depend from claim 1 and include its limitations. Therefore, claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, and 27 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Osakabe in view of Terry

The Examiner rejected claims 25-26 and 28-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osakabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,933,430 ("Osakabe"), in view of Terry et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,499,047 ("Terry"). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Osakabe in view of Terry.

Claim 25 recites, in part, "processing the digitized data within the first universal client interface adapter." Applicants submit that as discussed above, Osakabe does not teach or suggest a "universal client interface adapter" as recited in claim 25. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 is not obvious over Osakabe in view of Terry. Claim 26 is dependent on independent claim 25, and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 25.

Claim 28 recites, in part, "the universal client interface adapter processing the digital data signal." Applicants submit that as discussed above, Osakabe does not teach or suggest a "universal client interface adapter" as recited in claim 28. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is not obvious over Osakabe in view of Terry. Claims 29-33 are dependent on independent claim 28, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 28.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact J. Scott Heileson at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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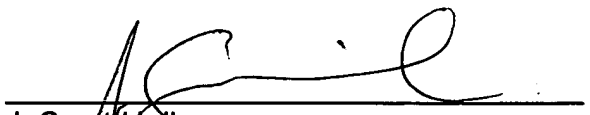

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